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Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, C.A.R.E.S. Coalition create comfort bags, activity kits w/pics

Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

LUDLOW – In the midst of the statewide lockdown, which has kept children mainly indoors and eager for things to return to normal, the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club and Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. (Compassion, Awareness, Respect, Education, Safety) Coalition have collaborated to remind kids that they have the community's best interests at heart.

The partnering organizations are currently putting together comfort bags and activity kits for local children. The decision to do these projects took place on April 27th, when the Advisory Board for Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. came together to discuss the proposal of Mechilia Salazar, President/CEO of the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, who wanted to partner up and create the comfort bags and activity kits.

Diana Roy, Secretary of Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. and the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors for the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, said that the comfort bags will be donated to the Ludlow Police Department and the Ludlow Fire Department,



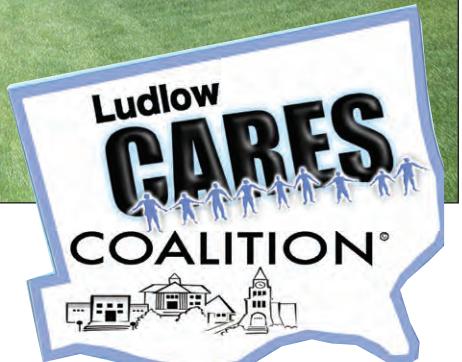
Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden
The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way. Its mission is to inspire and enable youth and adults to build better communities by providing life-enhancing experiences and programs.

which will be kept in their service vehicles and distributed to children when responding to distress calls.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Derek DeBarge, who is also a board member of

the C.A.R.E.S. Coalition, also played a role in the comfort bags project.

As a former police officer
Please see **LUDLOW CARES**,
Page 5



Courtesy Photo

The Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. Coalition's mission is to address issues relating to the community, youth residents, and business.

Two arrested on child endangerment, drug charges and warrant

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

LUDLOW – A Spencer woman and Palmer man were arrested on drug possession charges, child endangerment and an arrest warrant after reports of a man in a vehicle "acting strangely," with two young children in the car.

On May 1st at about 4 p.m., Ludlow police officers responded to the parking lot of the Cumberland Farms at 320 East St. in Ludlow for a



Brenda M. Sweet **Stephen M. Smola**

report of a male subject who was acting strangely and appeared to be hitting himself, according to a statement from Ludlow Police Lieutenant

Daniel Valadas. The caller also said there were children and a woman in the vehicle with him.

When officers arrived they initially couldn't locate the motor vehicle, a white Subaru, but within minutes they found the vehicle nearby in the parking lot of the East Street School.

Officers spoke with the vehicle's operator, Brenda M. Sweet, 24, of Spencer, Mass.,

Please see **ARRESTS**, Page 4

Pandemic poses challenges for women, kids

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

Many women and children in Hampden County have been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing measures, from figuring out where to get resources like food and diapers to navigating substance abuse and violence at home or finding ways to access reproductive healthcare.

The Hampden County Commission on the Status of

Women and Girls has been holding meetings and conducting polls through social media to find out what those issues are and how commissioners can advocate for and connect those who are struggling to organizations that can help.

"I fear we won't really know what women and girls deeply needed during this time until after, because women are really busy tending to the basic needs of their families today," said Dawn DiStefano, commis-

sioner and executive vice president at Square One in Springfield, a private nonprofit that provides early education, care and family support services. "They aren't going to sound the alarm for themselves while they're in the midst of this pandemic taking care of their families. I think as a community, it's up to us to apply that hypervigilance to the work and the effort we put into connecting

Please see **PANDEMIC**, Page 7

Ludlow Town Election set for June 1st

LUDLOW - Annual Town Election is Monday, June 1, 2020. Polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Early voting by mail only is available for any qualified voter for those choosing not to go to the polls on Election Day.

Applications for an early ballot can be located on the Town of Ludlow website. The deadline to apply for an early ballot is 12:00 p.m. on Friday, May 29, 2020. Download the application or written request and scan to clerk@ludlow.ma.us or mail to 488 Chapin St., Ludlow, or drop off at the Town Hall Collectors Mailbox located in the back of the Town Hall.

The last day to register to vote is Friday, May 22, 2020. Registration sessions will be held from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. on that date.

Absentee ballots cast in connection with the original election date which was postponed in response to COVID-19, whether returned before the original election or otherwise, shall be processed in accordance with applicable

Please see **ELECTION** Page 8

LUDLOW

Elks to distribute mattresses to Homeward Vets

LUDLOW – Through a grant from the Elk's National Foundation, the Ludlow Lodge of Elks No. 2448 is set to deliver the royal treatment to local veterans.

The Elks recently received a grant enabling them to purchase six queen size mattresses with the assistance of Yankee Mattress. Those mattresses will be delivered to the nonprofit Homeward Vets, who will distribute them to veterans transitioning from homelessness into their very own home.

To date, the Ludlow Elks have provided 35 such mattresses to Homeward Vets for the purpose.

Homeward Vets provides free home furnishings to veterans in need throughout Western Massachusetts. Since 2012, they have helped nearly 650 veterans. While they accept used furniture, they cannot accept used mattresses.

Elks pledge "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them." The Elks National Veterans Service Commission takes that pledge one step further, and promises service the nation's veterans and military members, with a special focus on service to those in need.

Those interested in helping the Elks provide for local veterans may contact the Elks at 583-2448.

Turley Turtle

Maryellen Stupak, Celeste A. Chenier and Al Tomlinson of Ludlow correctly counted 8 (or 9, which was also acceptable) turtles in the April 29th *Register*.

Town of Ludlow – weekly update

As of May 1st, we believe that we have approximately 63 positive cases of the COVID-19 virus and 4 deaths related to complications from the virus. Please remember that our numbers of the positive cases are approximate and change due to various factors. We try to provide the most accurate information we can.

From our Town Clerk: Monday, June 1, 2020 is our Annual Town Election. For this election, early voting by mail only is available for any qualified voter. Please contact the Town Clerk's office if you have any questions at 413-583-5600 ext. 1230.

From our Veterans Service Officer: Veterans or spouses of deceased Veterans may qualify for financial help during these difficult times. Visit www.mavetben.org for information. Additionally, if you are a Veteran who needs food, please contact Veterans Services Dept. at 413-385-1790.

From our Department of Public Works: Center Street construction work has resumed from the area of Hardinge Avenue to Chapin Street. The work

should continue for the next two weeks so avoid the area if possible or expect some delays at times.

From our Police Department: There have been some reported motor vehicle break-ins over the last week. Please remember to remain vigilant, lock your doors, and keep your outside lights on.

From our Senior Center: Though they are closed to the public, they are staffed to serve the senior population. If you are a senior or if you know a senior in need of services, please call 413-583-3564. You can also get information on our local cable access channel 191.

A message from the Ludlow CARES Coalition: Ludlow CARES would like to announce that their webinar titled Teens, Tweens, and Quarantines by Jon Mattleman is now up on their website at www.ludlowcarescoalition.org and their Facebook page. Jon Mattleman is a mental health counselor and trainer with 35 years of experience working with youth, parents and families. He provides tools and strategies as we manage the stresses of our current stay-at-home order.

Finally, Governor Baker signed an

executive order requiring residents to wear masks in public, including people who take public transit and grocery shopping. The executive order will take effect on May 6th. This makes the state's recommendation for people to wear face coverings and masks in places where they cannot socially distance mandatory. The order says violators "may" face a fine up to \$300, but Baker is expected to leave enforcement up to local officials. We are all well aware that specific establishments in our town require that the public wear face coverings upon entry, yet this doesn't always happen. We all need to adhere to the order for the health, safety and betterment of our neighbors. Hopefully by doing this, it will lead to a drop in exposures across the state, a beginning of opening some things up, and eventually a return to some semblance of normalcy. Let's continue to work together.

God Bless and Take Care of Each Other,
Derek G. DeBarge
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Ludlow Rotary to host drive-thru food and toiletry drive

LUDLOW – On May 16th from 12 – 2 p.m. at Ludlow High School, the Ludlow Rotary will be collecting non-perishable food and toiletry items to benefit the Community Survival Center. Also in need are diapers and feminine products.

Please pack any donations in a non-reusable bag and place in your trunk. Simply pull up and members of the Ludlow Rotary will collect your donations. Members will be wearing masks and gloves for the safety of all.

The Ludlow Rotary is excited to offer this contactless way for neighbors to help neighbors while maintaining social distancing. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

Looking for more ways to help? 1.2 million Rotarians from more than 35,000 clubs worldwide are People of Action who believe in Service Above Self. If you have questions or would like more information about becoming a Rotarian, please contact us at: ludlowrotaryma@gmail.com.

Ludlow Youth Cheerleading accepting fall registrations

LUDLOW - Ludlow Youth Cheerleading is currently accepting registrations for the 2020 fall season. The registration deadline has been extended until June 7th and is open to any participant entering grades K-8 this fall.

Uniform sizing is tentatively scheduled for Sunday June 7th, the time and location TBD.

Anyone who is interested can go to our website at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/ludlowyouthcheer> for more information and to register online.

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ACT	70 Kirkland Ave., Ludlow	6 room, 3 bed, 2f Oh bath Bungalow	\$222,500
ACT	6 Highmoor Dr., Wilbraham	8 room, 4 bed, 2f Oh bath Cape	\$335,500

CONDOMINIUM LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
PCG	2205 Boston Rd U:C25 Wilbraham	6 room, 2 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	\$194,900

LAND LISTINGS

STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
ACT	Lot 54 Knollwood, Ludlow	1.45 Residential acres (63,162 SqFt)	\$42,000
ACT	Lot 59A Knollwood Rd., Ludlow,	0.98 Residential acres (42,605 SqFt)	\$64,900
ACT	89 Timberidge Rd., Ludlow,	1.33 Residential acres (57,813 SqFt)	\$96,900
ACT	0 Cedar St., Ludlow	023 Residential acres (10,000 SqFt)	\$114,900
ACT	Lot 4 Silver Monson	2.83 Residential acres (123,274 SqFt)	\$84,900

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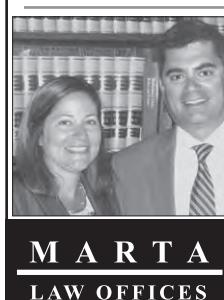
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
ACT	204B Main St., Monson	Commercial Building	\$850
ACT	145 Palmer Rd Monson,	Commercial Building 155 \$1,975 x1 Monson	\$1,960
ACT	145 Palmer Rd Monson,	5856 SqFt Commercial Building	\$239,470

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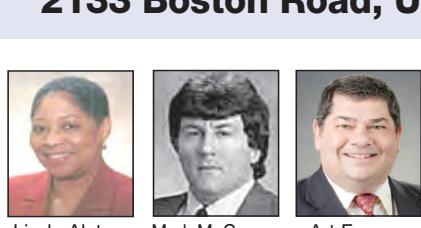
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Barroso arrested on assault and battery charges

By Elise Linscott
elinscott@turley.com

LUDLOW — A Ludlow man was arrested on ten criminal charges Sunday after getting into an accident while impaired and violently resisting arrest by head-butting a police officer, repeatedly striking his head on a police cruiser and spitting on officers and paramedics in the booking area.

On May 3, Ludlow Police Officers responded to the parking lot of the Uncle Bob's General Store, 967 East St. in Ludlow, for a report of a male subject in his car who appeared to be having a seizure. When officers arrived, they located the male subject in his vehicle and identified him as Christopher Barroso, 41, of Ludlow. Officers attempted to speak with subject Barroso but he was immediately hostile to them, according to a statement from Ludlow Police Lieutenant Daniel Valadas.

The vehicle Barroso was driving, a red Honda Accord, was also reportedly involved in a motor accident just before the call to Uncle Bob's General Store. The

victim involved in the reported car accident described the operator as possibly being impaired.

Police officers continued to try and speak with Barroso in the parking lot, along with Ludlow Fire Department paramedics who were also on the scene. Barroso became actively assaultive to the officers by charging at them and violently resisting their attempts to place him into custody. Barroso was arrested and when he was placed into a cruiser, he head-butted an officer, then proceeded to violently strike his head on the cruiser's interior divider.

Once transported to the Ludlow Police Station, Barroso refused to cooperate for booking and began to urinate and spit blood while in a cell. Barroso was actively bleeding from his head and mouth from striking his head against the cruiser divider. Barroso spit at and assaulted the officers and paramedics, repeatedly trying to spit in the faces of the first responders who were



Christopher Barroso

present in the booking area.

Barroso was restrained and placed onto a stretcher for transport to Baystate Medical Center Emergency Department for medical evaluation.

After his release from the hospital, Ludlow police transported subject Barroso directly to the Hampden County Correctional Center in Ludlow.

Barroso was held overnight on \$10,000 bail. He was arraigned in Palmer District Court on May 4 and a dangerousness hearing is being requested. Barroso was previously arrested for other violent assaults in Ludlow in December 2018 and October 2019.

Barroso was arrested on probable cause for the following ten criminal charges: OUI Liquor; two felony counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon; three counts of felony assault and battery on an ambulance personnel; vandalizing a building; malicious damage to a motor vehicle; and two counts of resisting arrest.

COVID-19 antibody test available at American Family Care in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD — American Family Care (AFC) has announced that its Springfield urgent care center at 415 Cooley St. is now offering the COVID-19 antibody test.

"The test will be able to tell if patients have antibodies to the novel coronavirus, which could indicate that they have had COVID-19 in the past," said Dr. Vincent Meoli, regional medical director of AFC. "The more information we have about who has been exposed, the more we will know about how much COVID-19 has spread through the population."

Dr. Meoli added, "It's important to note that a positive result to the antibody test does not mean a patient has immunity. We don't know if patients can contract the virus again; that's still being studied."

The COVID-19 antibody test is only available at the Springfield AFC location. Appointments are not required. Results will be available to patients within a few days of testing as samples must be sent out to Quest Diagnostics. Patients requesting the test, which is typically covered by insurance, will be asked to complete a brief questionnaire about

their symptoms prior to testing.

The West Springfield AFC urgent care center at 18 Union Street is offering the rapid molecular diagnostic test for COVID-19, with results available on the same day. The diagnostic test requires that patients first schedule a virtual AFC TeleCare appointment to be approved for testing. The West Springfield location is currently open only for COVID-19 testing.

Both AFC locations, in Springfield and West Springfield, will return to their normal hours on Saturday, May 2: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during the week and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.



TOWN OF LUDLOW RECREATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ludlow Recreation Department is now taking applications for seasonal employment: summer program counselors, nurse, lifeguards (pool & pond). We will notify all applicants when the interviews will be held as soon as we receive the Governor's decision on when/if camps, ponds, pools can/will be open and the guidelines/restrictions that will be in place for his decision. Please e-mail or call the Recreation Office at 583-8856 if interested in receiving an application for the position you would be applying for. If calling in your request please speak clearly & slowly with your name, address & position interested in applying for. When returning the application, please make sure that your SS# is on the application and a copy of your certifications are present with the application. Mail application to: Town of Ludlow, Recreation Department, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA. All applicants must be 16 years of age or older. Counselor/nurse applicants, CPR/First Aide must be current through the end of August. Lifeguards certifications must be current through September 7th. Any questions please feel free to contact the Recreation Office. Stay safe. Hope to see you all soon.

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Virtual dance party Thursday featuring a DJ set by ?uestlove

AMHERST - The UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center in partnership with the UMass Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs presents a virtual dance party featuring a DJ set by four-time Grammy Award winning artist ?uestlove on Thursday, May 7 at 8 p.m. The event is the Fine Arts Center's way to congratulate the UMass Amherst class of 2020 and celebrate the whole campus community for stepping up in the face of the coronavirus crisis. The event will stream for free on [livestream.com](#) and on the Fine Arts Center's Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/UMassfineArtsCenter](#).

"We hope this moment will provide a much-needed moment of joy for our campus community as we close out the spring semester from afar," said Jamilla Deria, director of the Fine Arts Center. "I can't imagine a better artist than ?uestlove to celebrate the revolutionary spirit of UMass Amherst."

In response to the coronavirus, ?uestlove has been livestreaming virtual DJ dance parties to raise funds for a Covid-19 Food Hub providing NYC students with school meals who no longer have access.

Drumer, DJ, producer, culinary entrepreneur, New York Times best-selling author, and member of The Roots, ?uestlove, is the unmistakable heartbeat of Philadelphia's most influential hip-hop group. He is the Musical Director for "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," where his beloved Roots crew serves as house band. Beyond that, this four-time GRAMMY Award winning musician's indisputable reputation has landed him musical directing positions with everyone from D'Angelo to Eminem to Jay-Z. ?uest-

love has also released two books including the New York Times bestseller "Mo' Meta Blues" and "Soul Train: The Music, Dance and Style of a Generation." One of his latest endeavors includes scoring Chris Rock's film, "Top Five," and also working as the music supervisor. He also recently produced the Original Broadway Cast Recording of "Hamilton," alongside Alex Lacamoire, Bill Sherman, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Tarik "Black Thought" Trotter. He will also serve as the Executive Music Producer and Composer on the A&E Mini Series "Roots."

?uestlove made his way into the culinary world with his signature "Love's Drumstick." Most recently has hosted a series of Food Salons with world-renowned and innovative chefs at his Financial District apartment in the NY by Gehry building. ?uestlove has appeared as a Guest Judge on "Top Chef" Season 11, his interest in food and his own culinary endeavors have been featured on the cover of New York Magazine, in Food & Wine Magazine, Bon Appetit, and seen on "The View," "Watch What Happens Live," and "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." He is a Celebrity Ambassador for Food Bank for New York City, is on the City Harvest Food Council, a board member of Edible Schoolyard, and the first Artist-in-Residence at the Made in NY Media Center. ?uestlove is also a Founding Member of the CAPA Foundation in Philadelphia.

For more information, visit [fineartscenter.com/Questlove](#) or the Fine Arts Center's Facebook page [facebook.com/UMassFineArtsCenter](#).

INDIAN ORCHARD

Indian Orchard Citizens Council supports essential workers

INDIAN ORCHARD - "In these critical times during this COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, the Indian Orchard Citizens Council believes that one of the most important things we can do for our community, is to thank all of our neighborhood's essential workers who continue working on the front lines providing services to our residents," said Zaida Govan, President of the Indian Orchard Citizens Council. "Their willingness to put themselves at risk in order to ensure that their neighbors have access to essential goods is very much appreciated," she added.

In appreciation of their selfless service in the retail and food service industries, the Council has recently treated the employees of Family Dollar and Save-A-Lot to a free lunch by providing them with pizzas from Best Pizza at 306 Pasco Road, as a way of thanking them for their service during the

pandemic. The Indian Orchard Citizens Council has also donated \$700 to Wellspring Harvest to purchase their hydroponically grown salads for patrons of the Survival Center who are in need.

The Council also urges residents to help Indian Orchard's many small local restaurants survive this ordeal by ordering take-out meals throughout the shutdown. "If we want to be able to continue enjoying our local restaurants in the future, now is the time that they really need our support, to ensure they will still be around once this crisis has past," said Govan.

"While this pandemic 'shutdown' has forced the Council to cancel several planned events for Indian Orchard residents, it has not dampened our efforts to remind us all that we remain strong as a community, and that together, we will survive this challenge," Govan added.

LUDLOW from Page 1

who has experience in providing support to children through items in certain situations, DeBarge said that he met with Fire Chief Ryan M. Pease and Acting Police Chief Lt. Michael Brennan to discuss the organizations involved in the project providing necessary items for officers, paramedics, and firefighters to have on hand when responding to a distress call.

"I'm proud to be a part of it," said DeBarge.

Salazar said in light of the recent announcement by Governor Charlie Baker to keep schools closed for the remainder of the school year and delay the opening of childcare centers until July, the kits will be used to supplement the efforts of Ludlow public school teachers.

"While technology has been an incredible tool to use to get through these challenging times, C.A.R.E.S. and the Boys and Girls Club also recognize the mental and emotional impact of too much screen time," said Salazar. "Thus, with children at home for at least two more months, we are offering to assemble activity kits that

will range from board games to arts and crafts supplies, printed recipe/instruction cards for fun science experiments, DIY games, or making your own puffy paint to support families."

Although both projects are a collaboration between C.A.R.E.S. and the Boys and Girls Club, they have received assistance from members of the Ludlow community, including the Ludlow School Department, the Ludlow Veterans Association and the Ludlow Rotary, who Roy had said have all "contributed items, ideas, and manpower."

She also said that Eric Segundo, Director of Veterans Services, also came forward with

backpacks filled with school supplies. Ludlow Public Schools health coordinator Kristen Bunten is also matching the needs of the children with appropriate supplies.

Both Roy and Salazar are happy with the projects and hope to make a positive impact in the community through these outreach efforts.

"The Ludlow C.A.R.E.S. Coalition and the Boys and Girls Club have become very close partners, with a shared mission

of promoting the health of Ludlow residents, especially our youth," said Roy. "It was heartwarming to see how the different organizations in Ludlow came together almost seamlessly to help our fellow citizens."

Regarding the Boys and Girls Club, Salazar said they proudly carry community in their name. "In these difficult times, not only does our community need the club – we need our community now more than ever," said Salazar. "Regardless of how bumpy the road may be, we will hold onto our shared vision and destination of a stronger and healthier community."

Roy said that they plan on having the comfort bags distributed around mid-May. To keep up to date with the Boys and Girls Club other outreach efforts, and as well as the activity kits, visit

their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ludlowbgc/>. Information on the Boys and Girls Club can also be accessed through <http://ludlowbgc.org/>. Also, to learn more about the C.A.R.E.S. Coalition, visit <http://www.ludlowcarescoalition.org/home.html>.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

Why I think of asparagus on Mother's Day

It was four years ago that I got asparagus crowns for Mother's Day! When I think back I laugh on the inside thinking of just how perfect a gift it was. Some women get jewelry and I get asparagus. Good thing my husband knows that I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. Just yesterday we walked around the yard and remarked at the tiny spears popping up; it was honestly a very nice memory associated with a special day. In the event you are the lucky recipient of asparagus crowns this Sunday, or if you are simply in the market to install a bed of this vegetable, read on.

Once asparagus is planted it will return, season after season for many years, perhaps 20 or more. Keep this in mind when choosing the location of your asparagus patch... you may have to live with your decision a long time. Some gardeners prefer to prepare a site separate from the vegetable garden while others locate it within the main gardening space. Each has its pros and cons. With the later approach, the bed can be inspected during the entire growing season, not only when the plants are productive. If you take this approach keep in mind that the ferny foliage gets quite tall by summer, so site it in the northern most row of the garden so that it won't shade out other plants. By planting the asparagus in a separate location you can also better cater to the plants' unique needs.

In order to thrive, asparagus plants require full sun, fertile soil, a neutral pH, and a weed-free bed. If time allows prepare the site in the fall prior to spring planting by removing the sod from grassy areas and by making the necessary adjustments to the soil with the addition of lime and balanced organic fertilizers. A soil test will determine accurate amounts for your site.

Once asparagus crowns have been purchased you shouldn't wait too long to plant them or they will dry out. At first look, the roots look like fleshy white tentacles of an octopus radiating out from its head! If planting ASAP is unlikely store them in moist sphagnum moss until you are able to get them in the ground. New advice recommends planting the crowns in trenches 8 to 10 inches deep. It is helpful to incorporate additional lime and bone meal thoroughly into the bottom of the planting furrow. Set plants on small mounds of soil 12 to 18 inches apart in the row and cover with 2 inches of soil. As the spears poke through this first layer of soil and begin to fern out, gradually fill in the trench with a mixture of soil and finished compost. It should take six weeks for the furrow to be completely filled in. Water regularly and topdress with fertilizer in August of the first year and every spring thereafter. A thick application of compost at this time will also enhance fertility, while liming annually will help keep the pH neutral.

New studies indicate that spears can be harvested for a week long period the year after planting. Simply cut with a sharp knife at the soil surface. The following year expand your harvest to four weeks; by year three a full harvest season of eight weeks is possible. After harvest let the foliage grow, once winter killed it can be cut back and removed from the garden site in case it harbors insect eggs. Good hygiene and hand picking will reduce populations of the asparagus beetle and other culprits of the asparagus patch.

My husband lovingly broke his back helping me clear the sod and remove the stones, shall I say boulders, from the area destined to be the asparagus patch. Maybe by Sunday the spears will be tall enough



Please see GARDEN, Page 7

GUEST COLUMN

Early May daze

Rainy weather and cooler than usual temperatures during these early May 2020 days are showing some appearances of spring. Well, somewhat. Yet, what brightens us up even more than our surrounding circumstances is the chance to celebrate unique and special days.

May's early calendar dates give us exceptional reasons to recognize "National Teachers Day" on May 5, and "Nurses Day" on May 6. Then on May 8 there's "Day Care Provider Day" and "Military Spouses Day."

Also it's surprising to learn from Holiday Insights, that May 9 is, "Lost Sock Memorial Day." Strange as it seems, "Clean up Your Room Day" is on May 10 — the same day as "Mother's Day." Curiosity asks: "Is it a Mom's mantra to clean up your room? If rooms were cleaned first, wouldn't that help solve the lost sock issues?"

Since all socks on the home front are happily paired, and the clean-up-your-room pleas have happened nonstop since the 2020 COVID-19 incubation, with what breath was left, a family member asked, "What else do you want this year for Mother's Day?"

Feeling that a response was the perfect time to show that "Grammar Doodles" was up to speed with knowing a few of the latest hot-topic terms, she replied.

"First, I'd like to 'slow the spread' when shopping by wearing an XL, wrap-around, Glad-Guard garbage bag."

"That'll be an interesting sight..."

"Second, I need to be wrapped tight

so as to 'flatten the curve.'"

"That'll be a squeal deal."

"Could we find color-coordinated boots, gloves, and a mask? I've got a straw hat."

"I'll have to go online..."

"Lines? Talk about lines? All stores have aisle lines of 'social distance' shoppers trying to follow one-way arrows!"

"Yup."

"I'll be s-o-o grateful to be stay and play outdoors; away from my personal pan-n-nemic."

"What? Wha-da-ya mean?"

"I'm not complaining. I'm thankful for food to cook. But, it seems like over these past six weeks of our staying in — that I've made and served gazillions of meals and desserts. I've seen stacked dishes. (Sigh) Peaked flatware. Skillets. Crockpot. Steamer. Plus — pots and pans."

"And?"

While The Hub comfortably sat down to use his iPhone to place an online order, the Mom snuggled beside him asking, "Do you think you could find me a book on-line too?"

"Sure!" "What's the title?"

"Novel Virus."

These recent months, weeks, days and hours can befuddle and bewilder us. Finding glimpses of humor in everyday issues and circumstances can help us get over those thump bumps — especially during our early May daze.



By Joan E. B. Coombs

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Note of Thanks

The family of Sgt. Joshua Desforges would like to thank those that contributed to Scrapbooking for Scholarships 2020. Unfortunately the event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but many donations were forwarded into the Scholarship account regardless "to keep the scholarship going". Thank you so much!

Special thanks to Dana Madera, Luso Credit Union, Ludlow Fire Social Club, Ludlow Special Police, Ludlow Police Association, Randall's Farm, Uncle Bob's General Store and the Ludlow community and beyond for your continued support.

Truly,
The Desforges Family

Ballot Question 1

The world is a different place since our original election date of March 2020. People have lost loved ones. May people have lost their jobs and are struggling to pay their bills. We have no idea what the 2020/2021 school year holds for our students, teachers and parents. We have no idea what our 'new normal' is going to look like. So many unknowns. As much as I would love to provide the new track for the High School I think now would be a terrible time to raise taxes for something that is not a necessity. On June 1st I will be voting no on Question 1 with the hopes that sometime in the future we might be better positioned to support this tax increase.

Kathy Green
Ludlow, MA

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language.

All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email rwirth@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to rwirth@turley.com as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right.

We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to rwirth@turley.com.

Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event.

If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393.

To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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PANDEMIC from Page 1

with women during this time."

Kids and young adults are also feeling the stress of the pandemic, often more than their parents realize. But children are also resilient, according to commissioners, and many want to help, including local Girl Scout troops who've been donating cookies and making window signs for seniors, said commissioner Pattie Hallberg, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts.

Girl Scouts

Kids aren't immune to the worry and change they see around them, from completing classes and schoolwork online to seeing scary news on the TV while having their parents home all the time. But Hallberg said she's also seen many who want to get involved and contribute in any way they can.

"There's a heightened sense of concern," Hallberg said. "But what we're finding at the Girl Scouts is so many of these girls are trying to figure out, 'What can I do to help? What can I do as a person?' They're making masks, they're delivering cookies to the fire department or the police department. They're doing what they can to find some little way to make a difference. That makes them feel so much better."

In Monson, for instance, Troop 64811 made signs for a nursing home in Hampden to put in their windows to brighten their day.

Hallberg has heard from many girls that they want to go back to school and that they miss the camaraderie of seeing their classmates and teachers. But they're still finding ways to stay occupied and virtually connected to the outside world.

"There are so many cool things that they can do on the internet," Hallberg said. "They can go to the opera, they

can go to Broadway, they can take a virtual tour of our national parks, they can go to a science museum. In Girl Scouting, they're earning badges and patches online, and it's so fun to watch them earning badges and doing things that they might not have ever done before."

Hallberg has also been encouraging families to get outside for fresh air and fun activities like scavenger hunts.

Square One

DiStefano said she and others on the commission have been working to build "a strong mental health safety net" in the community, in order to help everyone stay afloat.

"When we come up for a breath of air, those being willing to take a big gulp of air better be willing to dive back down and bring others to the surface," DiStefano said. "I think a lot of women will be stuck in the weeds underwater. I think that's where the commission can do its best work – we can rally around and find our allies in people to go out to check in on others."

Ensuring a strong mental health safety net also means going back and ensuring people's basic needs are being met. While commissioners like DiStefano and Hallberg aren't in the business of being interventionists, they can listen and do legislative advocacy on their behalf and direct folks to organizations that can help.

"It's Maslow's hierarchy of needs – if people don't have food, if people don't have a safe dwelling to be in or don't have access to employment and education, you can't start to address things like mental and behavioral health," she said.

DiStefano said she's most worried about folks struggling with their mental health and who may not be feeling as resilient. Square One's home visiting program, for instance, works with mothers who are in their first year of recovery

from substance abuse, have children under the age of five and are working toward reunification with their children or have already been reunified.

"The isolation when they're in recovery, the pressure for most of them – they're single mothers, so they're home alone with their children," DiStefano said. "That's been the most challenging population for our staff at Square One. I worry about those women; I worry about those children. This is not a good situation for them."

The pandemic has been destabilizing for many, but it's not all doomsday, she added.

"I think there's a place to celebrate the resiliency of women," DiStefano said. "We're an amazing part of this world and I think our gender lends itself to some outstanding characteristics. But none of us have ever been through this before... and I don't think any of us are okay, some of us are just less okay than others."

Planned Parenthood of Western Massachusetts

Shanique Spalding, a political organizer with the Planned Parenthood Advocacy Fund of Massachusetts, said that because of travel restrictions, limited court and clinic hours and legislative meetings, women have been having a tougher time accessing reproductive care.

The ROE Act, which is sitting in the State House Joint Judiciary Committee, is a bill that aims to expand abortion access in Massachusetts after 24 weeks only in the case of fatal fetal anomalies. Currently, a mother who receives a diagnosis of a fatal fetal anomaly after 24 weeks has to travel

to Colorado or New Mexico to receive care. But because of the pandemic, traveling that far out of state is nearly impossible now.

The bill could be reported out of committee with a positive or negative recommendation in mid-May, Spalding said. But because of cancellations and physical distancing, she hasn't been able to do the direct advocacy work around the bill.

Another issue facing young women is around the judicial bypass process, which allows minors to appear in court before a judge, who makes a determination on allowing abortion services if the minor is unable to get parental consent. But many courts are now operating on limited hours.

Minors may also have to deal with figuring out how to get to a clinic in the first place if they're unable to share where they're going with their families or partners at home or if they're essential workers.

"During COVID, there are still young people who have to access abortion services, and there are still people getting fatal fetal diagnoses," Spalding said.

Health centers that provide abortions are also operating on limited hours. In Hampden County, the only two facilities that provide abortions are Planned Parenthood in Springfield and Baystate Medical Center, Spalding said.

"We're advocating for folks to pay attention to the fact that abortion services are also being impacted and are still essential care for a lot of individuals for a number of reasons," Spalding said.

GARDEN from Page 6

to harvest, that would be neat, indeed. And what about this year's gift? Well along the same theme I have a project up my sleeve. A new picket fence perhaps!

Here's wishing everyone out there a Happy Mother's Day!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Gloria has the same passion for serving the community, earning numerous awards while lifting up many lives. She leaves an inspiring legacy of hard work and strong character, as she continues volunteering to make our region a better place to live.

In lieu of congratulating Gloria in person, we invite you to email your well wishes to gfarria@westfieldbank.com.

Congratulations, Gloria!



IN THE CLASSROOM

HCC donates surplus food to area nonprofits

HOLYOKE - Surplus food from Holyoke Community College has benefitted hundreds of individuals and families who frequent area food pantries and social service agencies.

With the HCC campus now closed and all classes moved online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college donated its perishable food supplies to three area nonprofits, the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center in Springfield, the YWCA Transitional Living Program in Holyoke and the Easthampton Community Center in Easthampton.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts helped coordinate the donations.

In late March, college staff emptied the pantries and refrigerators at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street. Stacy Graves, the institute coordinator, estimated that the college donated about \$600 worth of produce, fruit, milk, eggs, butter, yogurt and cream to the YWCA Transitional Living Program. The food had been slated for use in HCC's Culinary Arts program.

"I hope you guys like carrots and potatoes because there's lots of them," Graves said to Sharifa Forbes, the YWCA program supervisor, as they unloaded the van.

"We really do appreciate it," Forbes said. "Thank you so much for this. This is awesome."

Tess Gordon, the YWCA's direct service advocate, said the food would be portioned out for the dozen or more teen moms who live with their children at



Submitted photos

HCC donates food Mark-Aramark: Mark Pronovost, director of Aramark/HCC Dining Services, gets ready to deliver a load of surplus food to the Easthampton Community Center.

the center, where they prepare their own meals.

"Right now, with COVID-19, it's hard for them to go out into the community to shop, especially with keeping their kids safe," Gordon said.

"I wish I could give you a big hug," Forbes said to Graves from a safe distance in the parking lot outside the center. "It helps out a lot. Times are uncertain. The girls are nervous."

On another day, after emptying the

walk-in coolers of the college's cafeteria kitchen, Mark Pronovost, HCC director of Aramark/Dining Services, delivered nearly 400 pounds of assorted produce, fruit and dairy products to the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Center, enough food, he was told, for 327 meals.

Pronovost also cleaned all the perishables out of the college's vending machines and delivered those items -fresh fruit, dairy products, yogurt, chips, pop-



HCC donates food sara-stacy: Sarah Schmidt, director of programming for HCC's Center for Excellence, and Stacy Graves, coordinator of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, load a cargo van with surplus produce and other food.

corn, and pretzels and other retail products to the Easthampton Community Center, which runs a food pantry for area residents and works closely with HCC's Thrive Student Resource Center to provide free backpacks and school supplies to low-income students and families.

"If we hadn't done this we would just been throwing all the food in the trash," said Pronovost. "It's impressive that HCC is willing to do this, and I'm very happy to do."

Dr. Sharianne Walker named Dean of Western New England University College of Business

SPRINGFIELD - Dr. Sharianne Walker has been named Dean of the Western New England University College of Business. Dr. Linda E. Jones, University Provost, recently made the announcement citing Walker's dedication and commitment to the College of Business and the University who has spearheaded accreditation, strategic planning, and assessment projects at the University.

A native of Northampton, Mass., Walker joined the College of Business faculty in 1996, most recently serving as Chair and Professor of Sport Management, as well as codirector of the Master of Science in Sport Leadership and Coaching graduate program.

Dr. Walker is the coauthor of the texts Managing Intercollegiate Athletics; Managing Sport Organizations: Responsibility for Performance; and Strategic Management in International Sport in International Sport Management. Her current research focuses on revenue and resource development models in sports organizations, strategic management and leadership. She has presented her research in leadership development, business operations, and revenue generation at various international, national, and regional conferences.

An influential figure in the growth of the University's athletics program, she has served as a faculty fellow, an NCAA Faculty

Representative, chair of the Western New England Athletics Council, Athletic Direct Report, and was inducted into the University's Downes Athletic Hall of Fame.

Walker was previously named Career Woman of the Year by the Massachusetts Business and Professional Women's Association and served as Director of the Springfield Leadership Institute. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park in Florence.

Walker earned her bachelor's degree in English from Smith College, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in Sport Management from the University of Massachusetts.

ELECTION from Page 1

law. All ballots must be returned before the close of polls on election day. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office at (413) 583-5600 Ext. 1230.

-Kim M. Batista,
Town Clerk

The following is a list of candidates for the Annual Town Election, June 1, 2020

Board of Selectmen (1 opening – 3-year term): Antonio Goncalves, candidate for re-election.

Town Clerk (1 opening – 3-year term): Tim M. Batista, candidate for re-election.

Tax Collector (1 opening – 3-year term): Fred Pereira, candidate for re-election.

Town Moderator (1 opening – 3-year term): Michael A. Szlosek

Board of Assessors (1 opening – 3-year term): Michael S. O'Rourke, candidate for re-election

Board of Health (1 opening – 3-year term): Adrienne DeSantis, candidate for re-election

Trustee of Hubbard Memorial Library (1 opening – 3-year term): Linda J. Collette

Housing Authority (1 opening – 5-year term): no candidate

Board of Public Works (2 openings – 3-year terms): Thomas Haluch, candidate for re-election Guilherme F. Rodrigues, candidate for re-election, Stephen E. Santos, Daniel F. Soares

Recreation Commission (1 opening – 3-year term): Jason C. Martins, candidate for re-election, Harry V. Mills

School Committee (2 openings – 3-year terms): James Chip Harrington, Jeffrey A. Laing

Planning Board (1 opening – 5-year term): Rafael L. Quiterio

Representative Town Meeting Member openings:

Precinct 1 (5 openings: 3-year terms); Precinct 1 (1 opening - 1-year unexpired term); Precinct 2 (5 openings – 3 year terms);

Precinct 2 (2 openings – 2 year unexpired terms);

Precinct 2 (3 openings – 1 year unexpired terms)

Precinct 3 (5 openings – 3 year terms)

Precinct 3 (1 opening – 1 year unexpired term)

Precinct 4 (5 openings – 3 year terms)

Precinct 4 (1 opening – 2 year unexpired term) Precinct 4 (1 opening – 1 year unexpired term)

Precinct 5 (5 openings – 3 year terms)

Precinct 5 (1 opening – 2 year unexpired term) Precinct 5 (1 opening – 1 year unexpired term)

Precinct 6 (5 openings – 1 year terms)

Precinct 6 (1 opening – 2 year unexpired term)

Sample ballots can be found on the Town of Ludlow website under Town Clerk/Election Information.

Over the past few weeks we have seen a sharp increase in fresh meat prices, due to limited supply, and high demand. We will not run out of meat, however certain items or cuts may be less available than others. Our frozen sections continue to provide great values with an extensive selection and variety, and are a great alternative, we encourage you to check them out! Please note, beginning May 6th, per the order of the State of Massachusetts, anyone entering the premises must wear a face covering and we will be required to refuse entry to anyone who does not comply. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during these unusual circumstances. Be well and stay safe!

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USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST.....	TRAY PAK 99¢ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4'S	\$4.99
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Summer leagues now coming into question

Following the closure of spring sports, many summer leagues are being forced to do the same

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – In just a short period of time, the landscape of even summer sports has now changed with a number of baseball leagues cancelling play and others postponed indefinitely while the leagues wait out the “surge.”

But in the case of some very talented athletes, the 2020

baseball season has been completely shuttered.

First, it was the postponement of Major League Baseball along with the complete cancellation of spring sports for the collegiate level. Now, two of the most prominent college leagues have cancelled their seasons for the summer, citing the risks involved for the league as a whole.

The Cape Cod Baseball League and the New England Collegiate Baseball League have cancelled their 2020 campaigns, which were set to start in June. The cancellation leaves no opportunities for teams to play at all in the 2020

season. The summer leagues, like college season were often an additional place for star athletes to get exposure, play against some of the best competition in the country, and receive additional looks for scouts from the major leagues.

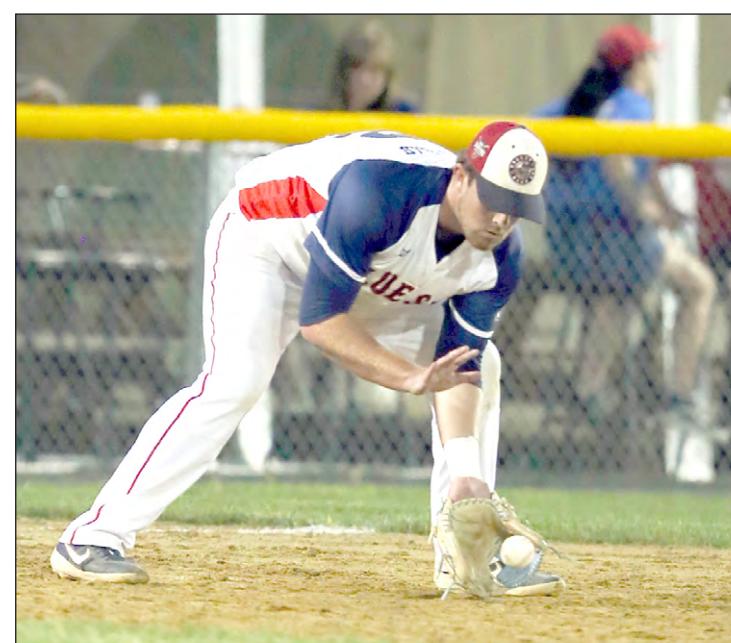
The cancellation of baseball has also filtered down to the high school and youth levels as well.

With parks and recreation activities shut down, baseball and softball is shut down at the youth level. Spring sports

Please see **SUMMER LEAGUES**, Page 10



The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is still hoping to have its regular season, though it may be delayed.



College baseball will not be played in the area as the NECBL cancelled its season. The Valley Blue Sox are based in Holyoke.



File photos

American Legion baseball is also in danger of being cancelled this summer.



Recreational leagues like the Valley Wheel Baseball League and the Quabbin Valley League are all on hold waiting to see if Massachusetts “re-opens.”

NECBL cancels 2020 season

The Valley Blue Sox play their home games in Holyoke

NORTH ADAMS – The New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) has announced that its board of directors, comprised of executives from its 13 member teams and officers, have voted to cancel the 2020 summer collegiate baseball season.

This decision was reached after a careful and thoughtful review of the guidance from federal, state and local officials, the leadership of our host communities, and recommendations from the CDC and medical community. The conclusion was that canceling the 2020 season was necessary for the health, safety and well-being of our players, coaches, umpires, volunteers, fans and host families.

We understand that this decision will result in hard-

ship and disappointment to our student-athletes who have already lost their college spring baseball season. For this reason, it breaks our hearts and runs counter to our competitive instincts and spirit.

However, our first priority and obligation must always be the health and well-being of our players and our community. We promise to use this time out, and all of our resources, to make our 2021 season something truly special for our players, coaches and fans.

We are part of the communities that host our member teams. We encourage our teams, as organizations, individually and working with their volunteers, to support community first responders and their local business sponsors, many of whom are restaurants that are going through difficult financial times. To show our appreciation to our host communities and supporters, we will ded-

icate Opening Day 2021 in each of our venues to thank, honor and support community organizations and first responders who serve on the front lines of combating COVID-19.

The New England Collegiate Baseball League is a wooden bat college summer league that fields teams in all six New England states. Partially funded by Major League Baseball, the NECBL started play in 1994 and enjoyed its 25th-year anniversary season last summer. The New England League has sent over 150 alumni to the Major Leagues and has had nearly 100 alumni drafted in each of the last 10 Major League Baseball Drafts.

The Valley Blue Sox are the main local team to Western Massachusetts in the NECBL. The Blue Sox have won two league championship in 2017 and 2018, and were in the semifinal round in 2019.

Senior athletes to be highlighted in coming weeks

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over the next several weeks, the sports section will have stories and photos about the various spring sports teams that were never even able to have a practice, and eventually saw their full season cancelled.

We will be talking with spring coaches and athletic directors, but would also love to

hear from senior players about their feelings about the spring season being cancelled.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.



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Claremont Speedway event cancelled

REGION – Tri Track Open Modified Series officials announced on Saturday, in collaboration with Claremont Speedway, that the event originally scheduled for May 24 will not happen as scheduled. New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu released new guidance for the state on Friday that will not allow gatherings to occur for the race event.

The Tri Track Open Modified Series continues to keep the safety of our race teams, drivers, staff and fans in mind with decisions. We will provide additional guidance around the 2020 schedule once it is available. Our intention is to hit the track for action this season."

Sign-ups on hold for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch.

The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward.

The league is hopefully to begin play sometime in June or July. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass.

For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

T-Birds Foundation announces fundraising drive

SPRINGFIELD – Today, the Springfield Thunderbirds Foundation announced the start of its "From the Heart" campaign, which will feed essential workers at non-profits, medical facilities, and public safety organizations over the coming ten weeks. The campaign kicked off today with monetary donations of \$500 to both the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Holyoke Medical Center. Holyoke Medical Center will use the funds to purchase food for its medical staff.

"We are excited to announce our 'From the Heart' campaign and we are honored to support our first two recipients. Food insecurity during this time is a serious issue and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is leading the charge to combat this across the region. Holyoke Medical Center has also stepped up in a big way for the residents of Holyoke and has gone the extra mile in treating our Vets in the Holyoke Soldier's Home. We are truly grateful for all these two organizations are doing for our community," said Nathan Costa, President of the Springfield Thunderbirds.

The announcement of the "From the

Heart" campaign comes on the heels of successful food deliveries to Mercy and Baystate Medical Centers in mid-April. Stephen Cincotta, a member of the Thunderbird's local ownership group, saw the impact these donations had on frontline medical staff and reached out to the T-Birds Foundation with a generous donation to extend the program to other organizations in western Massachusetts.

"When I saw the reaction of the doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff to the food deliveries and their pictures with Boomer, I knew we could be doing more to spread a little joy and good will to others on the front lines of this pandemic. I am proud to support the work of the T-Bird's Foundation and grateful to the men and women who are working every day to keep us safe from harm," said Cincotta, President and CEO of Clinical Research Management Group (CRMG).

With the campaign's launch, the T-Bird's Foundation will deliver food to a new organization each week for the next ten weeks to thank front-line workers making an impact in the community. The Foundation broadened the reach

of its program to recognize the many diverse fields that are contributing the fight against COVID-19.

"During this time of great need in our region, we are extremely grateful to the support we have received across the community to help our neighbors at risk of hunger," said Jillian Morgan, Corporate Relations Officer for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. "The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts remains committed to feeding all of our neighbors in need and is taking proactive steps to protect those who rely on our services. Your support keeps meals on the table during these challenging times."

Meals will be sourced from many of the T-Birds corporate partners, including the 99 Restaurant & Pub, Buffalo Wild Wings, Theodore's Booze, Blues & BBQ, Krazy Jake's, Frigo's Foods, Texas Roadhouse, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dunkin' Donuts and Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant.

Individuals interested in supporting the campaign can contribute to the Thunderbirds' Foundation directly: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/3391100>.

Valley Wheel Baseball still looking for new players

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown

in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back.

The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are lifted. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out,

SUMMER LEAGUES from Page 9

were cancelled last week at the high school level, and even recreational softball leagues have been completely shut down. There are still some leagues that are hopeful.

Like high school athletic directors, many recreational leagues have begun making shortened schedules or modified

schedules that would accommodate play once fields are opened up.

However, as the surge remains present in Massachusetts, it is hard to forecast when play in many leagues will open up.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is open to holding a modified schedule if needed, but it is also still holding out hope to holding its regular

season as scheduled. The season typically starts in the third week of June.

Depending on how the re-opening plan is phased, there is still a possibility of that, or a better possibility of the season going deeper into the summer.

One league that teenagers were hopeful would not be cancelled is American Legion baseball. However, that may be the case after the chairman of District 3 recommended the season be cancelled. Most area teams, such as Agawam, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Aldenville, and Monson play in District 3. There are also several Junior Legion teams in the area, with Holyoke set to rejoin the ranks.

The American Legion had cancelled its regional and national tournaments, but there was hope its regular season would take place in areas that were deemed safe from major coronavirus outbreaks. The national tournament was set to take place late in the summer in North Carolina.

The stay-at-home advisory along with the non-essential business closure remains in effect through May 18. It is not known if the order will be lifted, but a re-opening plan is supposed to be submitted by a committee on that date.

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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Douville, Kevin L.
Died April 26, 2020
Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

Guerra, Francesca C.
Died April 30, 2020
Celebration of Life
at a later date
Ludlow Funeral Home

Ostrowski, Jane H.
Died May 1, 2020
Memorial Mass
at a later date
Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

Pelletier, Joseph A., Jr.
Died April 29, 2020
Services at a later date
Kapinos-Mazur
Funeral Home

Robitaille, Eugene R.
Died April 27, 2020
Mass of Christian burial
St. Elizabeth Church

Kevin L. Douville, 57

BELCHERTOWN

- Kevin L. Douville, 57, of Belchertown, passed away on April 26, 2020. Kevin was born and raised in Ludlow, until he moved to Belchertown with the love of his life, best friend and partner of 32 years, Karen Rae Mercier.



was better because of him.

Kevin was superbly talented and uniquely humble. He was wiser than he let on, more generous than he needed to be, and was an incredibly kind soul. Kevin died doing what he loved, riding his motorcycle with Karen on the back and friends by his side. Kevin did not watch life pass by. He got on his bike and he chased it, and with a smile on his face, urged us to join. Those who joined were taken on an unforgettable ride, and will be forever in his debt for the experience.

Kevin has always been the light in Karen's eyes and nothing will ever change that. Kevin leaves his loving parents, Ronald and Dolores Martins Douville, his brother Todd and his wife Deana, his brother James and his wife Donna, his father-in-law, Steve Mercier, his sister-in-law, Stephanie Chapin and her husband Robert, and many nieces and nephews. His brother Mark predeceased him in 2006. He also leaves many life-long, very special friends that meant the world to him.

Kevin was self-employed, providing the highest quality plumbing services to the Pioneer Valley for over three decades. He was an avid skier, local music enthusiast, and authentic motorcyclist. Kevin "wrenched on" and meticulously restored countless Harley Davidsons over the years. Kevin made things better. He made people better. He fixed things that were broken and improved things that were not. Everything around him - everyone around him -

To say that he will always be missed is an understatement. To say that he will always be loved and remembered falls woefully short. When the pandemic has passed, we will come together to celebrate Kevin and all that this wonderful man has meant to us over the years. Until then we will do the best we can to manage, knowing that the Harleys in heaven are going to run a whole lot better.

Donations in Kevin's name will go to Mark Douville Charitable Fund at Community Foundation at 333 Bridge Street, Springfield, MA 0110. Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Jane H. (Cieplinski) Ostrowski , 89

LUDLOW - Jane H. (Cieplinski) Ostrowski , 89, of Ludlow, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2020. Born October 5, 1930, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Amelia (Cira) Cieplinski. A lifelong Ludlow resident, she was a graduate of Ludlow High School. Jane was always a hard worker, working at Buxton and Mass Mutual before her retirement. After retiring, she helped at the Double D Dairy Bar making her homemade golumpki and pierogi. She was a communicant of Christ the King Parish in Ludlow.



and Michael Ostrowski, both of Ludlow. She also leaves her 6 beloved grandchildren: Erin Ruszala and her husband Andrew, Jerad Ostrowski, Alec Ostrowski, Michael Ostrowski Jr. and his wife Eponine, Christian Ostrowski and Stephen Ostrowski, as well as her 4 great-grandchildren Brooke, Rylee and Logan Ruszala and Andreana Ostrowski. Sadly she was predeceased by her husband Francis Ostrowski in 1986 and her siblings.

A Memorial Mass for Jane will be celebrated at a later date. Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Francesca "Fran" Cristina Guerra, 95

LUDLOW - Francesca "Fran" Cristina Guerra, 95, died peacefully on April 30 at Beaumont Nursing Home in Westboro, MA, from complications of the coronavirus, while holding the hands of her loving nurses. She was born in Ludlow, MA, on December 5, 1924, to Annetta and Felice Cristina. She was predeceased by her brother Henry and leaves her loving sister Louise Kertesz of Michigan. Fran was married to John Guerra, the love of her life, for 64 years until his death in 2006. She leaves five children and their spouses: Marcia Chwalek (Ed) of Hopkinton, David Guerra (Margo) of Putnam, CT, Grace McFarland (Scott) of Pleasant Valley, NY, John Guerra (Suzanne) of Concord, MA, and Cristina Hepburn (Bram) of Eliot, Maine. She also leaves twelve adoring grandchildren, eleven greatgrandchildren, her dear friends Elizabeth Dinnie of Ludlow and Adele Chwalek of Westboro, brother-in-law James Guerra of Florida, many nieces and nephews, and extended family in Italy.



Fran would have accompanied you to your car with a pot of soup, a roast chicken, or a folded-up \$20 bill. Sometimes all three. As church organist and choir director at St. Mary's Church for 60 years, she gifted church members with beautiful music programs, making every Mass and holiday season a celebration of song. A resident of Beaumont during her last years, Fran made many friends among other residents and the wonderful staff. They enjoyed her sense of humor, kindness, and listening to her piano playing in the dining room. All who knew her were blessed and will be forever grateful for her love, generous spirit, and the many ways she will live on in our hearts and memories. Due to the continued coronavirus restrictions, funeral services for Frances will be held privately by her family in St. Aloysius Cemetery, with Ludlow Funeral Home (www.ludowfuneralhome.com) entrusted with her care. A Public Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center Building Fund, in loving memory of Fran Guerra. Checks can be made to The Friends of Ludlow Senior Center and in the memo write Building Fund; 37 Chestnut Street, Ludlow, MA 01056. Information online at www.friendsofludlowseniorcenter.com

Joseph A. Pelletier Jr., 82

LUDLOW - Joseph A. Pelletier Jr., 82, a longtime Ludlow resident, passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. Son of the late Joseph and Braida (Tyrell) Pelletier, he was born in Springfield on March 9, 1938.



A graduate of Springfield Trade High School, he worked as a glazer for Chase Glass and A-1Glass for many years. Joseph was a lifetime member of the Ludlow Lodge of Elks. He loved organizing and attending Elks events and projects, his trips to the casinos and was an avid poker player. His favorite holiday was Christmas and he enjoyed celebrating the season with his beloved family.

Joseph leaves to cherish his

memory his wife of 60 years Ellen (Balch) Pelletier of Belchertown; his son Edward J. Pelletier (Sandy) of Ludlow; 2 daughters Ann Converse (Kyle) of Belchertown and Jo-Ellen Evans (Mary) of Ludlow; 3 sisters Barbara Brunelle of Monson, Kathy Pelletier and Joanne Paquin both of Ludlow. He also leaves his 5 beloved grandchildren Tiffany, Toby, Kara, Ashley and Brittany as well as his 4 great-grandchildren Alexandria, Aviana, Landon and Skylar and many nieces and nephews.

Services celebrating Joseph's life will be held at a later date. Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

MORE OBITS ON PAGE 12

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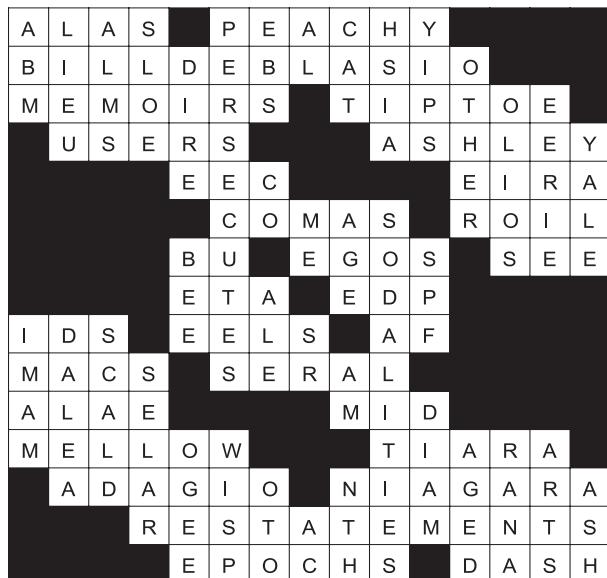
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OBITUARIES**Eugene R. Robitaille, 88**

abell Catholic Church in Ludlow. His beloved wife, Jeanette (Gonyer) Robitaille sadly passed away on April 9, 2001. He leaves his children; Robert Robitaille and his wife, Margaret of Ludlow and Daniel Robitaille and his wife Laura of Westfield. His cherished grandchildren; Nichole Absous and her husband Justin of GA., Elizabeth Robitaille of Ludlow, Shannon Robitaille and her fiancé Tim Mannix of Bethel, ME. and Andrew, Madison and Alex Robitaille all of Westfield. He also leaves his siblings; George Robitaille of Ludlow and Beatrice Rush of West Palm, FL. along with many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two siblings; Roland Robitaille and Shirley Hebert. A Mass of Christian burial at St. Elizabeth Church in Ludlow and interment in Island Pond Cemetery will be announced pending the lifting of social restrictions. Donations in Gene's memory may be made to the Friends of Quabbin, Inc., 485 Ware Road, Belchertown, MA 01007 www.foquabbin.org Ratell Cremation and Funeral Services has been entrusted with arrangements.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Ludlow Register, please email ludlowregister@turley.com.

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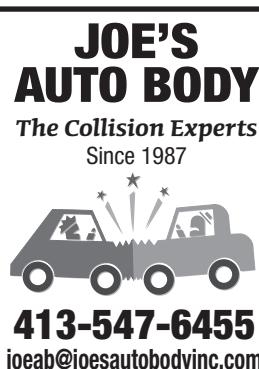
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DATEBOOK

ONGOING

THE MICHAEL J. DIAS FOUNDATION sponsors a support group for families and friends whose loved one is affected by an alcohol/substance use disorder. The group meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at Healthsouth, 222 State St., Ludlow. All are welcome! If you have any questions, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER 55 AND OVER VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE will be held at East Street School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. The cost to take part is \$20 per year. For more information contact the Senior Center Activities Director at Activity@ludlow.ma.us or 413-583-3564 ext. 1310.

WESTERN MASS RELICS SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE. Slow pitch with two divisions (50-plus and 65-plus). All games played at the Ludlow Fish & Game Club from May to Labor Day. Registration forms and information available at www.wmass-relics.com.

QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at 343 Winsor St., Ludlow. Call 348-6487 for more information.

SHARE YOUR SIGHT. Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

EVENTS

Editor's note: As towns, schools and clubs continue to assess the threat posed by coronavirus, many are making the decision to cancel or postpone their public events, often with little notice.

The Register will inform readers about cancellations when known and when the newspaper's weekly deadline will permit, but readers should be aware of the possibility that events featured in the printed newspaper, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled without enough notice to print an update. The Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers to confirm that it is still taking place before attending.

TRIPS

The Polish American Veterans of Wilbraham are planning the following trips in 2020.

QUEEN ESTHER The three-day tour to see "Queen Esther" in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Aug. 26 to 28 includes deluxe motor coach, two nights at the Bird in Hand Inn, two breakfast

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ludlow Register, please email ludlowregister@turley.com.

buffets at the hotel. Dinner show "Josiah for President" (Dinner #1) and Miller's Smorgasbord (Dinner #2). "Queen Esther" will have reserved orchestra seats up front. There will be Mount Hope Winery visit, Bird in Hand Farmers Market and Sands Casino visit. There will be a Stop at Mastoris Kitchen Kettle Village and Longwood Gardens. Portchester Diner on return home (meal on own). Baggage handling, all taxes and driver's gratuity included. Cost is \$455 for double occupancy, \$435 for triple occupancy and \$575 for single. Deposit of \$75 at sign up, balance due July 15. Cancellation protection \$39 per person. Bus departs 7 a.m.

DOLLY & KENNY at The Stadium Theater, Woonsocket, Rhode Island on Thursday, Sept. 24. Bringing back Dave & Karen for a second show. Sold out the first show. Package includes motor coach transportation, chicken dinner at Wright's Chicken Restaurant, native tribute show with Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers, meal taxes and gratuities. Karen Hester is Dolly Parton and David Karl is Kenny Rogers. Cost is \$92 per person. Final payment due Aug. 28. Bus departs 10 a.m. from PAV, 1124 Berkshire Ave., Indian Orchard.

"GHOST OF A CHANCE" at The Newport Playhouse & Cabaret in Rhode Island. A Victorian-era tragedy is re-enacted in a supposedly haunted house. Package includes roundtrip motor coach, buffet luncheon, Playhouse Comedy Show, a Cabaret Show (two shows), meal taxes and gratuities. Buffet menu includes lettuce bowl, potato salad, beets and onion salad, three-bean salad, bbq ribs, sausage and peppers, roasted chicken, baked ham, baked beans, sweet potatoes, assorted desserts, coffee and tea. Cost \$102 per person and payment is due Sept. 21. Bus departs 8:30 a.m. from PAV, 1124 Berkshire Ave., Indian Orchard.

For information and reservations on any of the following trips, please call Loretta @ 413-592-7350, Stacy @ 413-593-1172, or Dianne @ 413-214-3822.

For more information on any of the above trips or to reserve a seat call Rich Gosciminski at 413-583-4610. Make checks payable to Polish American Veterans. Mail to Rich Gosciminski, 149 Center St., Apt. #1, Ludlow, MA, 01056. All trips depart from P.A.V, 1124 Berkshire Ave., Indian Orchard, MA.

9 TO 5 MUSICAL The Catholic Woman's Club of the Diocese of Springfield invites area residents to join the club for a bus trip to see "9 to 5 The Musical" by Dolly Parton, at the Westchester-Broadway Theatre in Elmsford, N.Y., on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The bus leaves the Big Y parking lot in Ludlow at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 7:30 p.m. Attendees can choose their lunch entree off the menu. Tickets are \$100 and seating is assigned as checks are received. The deadline for payment is June 20. Call Ruth at 413-531-3506 for more information.

SAN ANTONIO HOLIDAY – Dec. 3-7, 2020 Four days at Westin Hotel on the city's Riverwalk, illuminated for the holidays. Also, city tour, river cruise, Mexican Marketplace, Alamo, Mission San José, LBJ Ranch, German community of Fredericksburg decorated for Christmas, Museum of the Pacific War and more. \$2,149 pp doubles includes air, taxes, luggage handling, and transportation to/from Bradley Airport. Contact Jim Martin at 413-583-6339 or jameslmartin47@gmail.com.

POLANIE CLUB TRIPS

For information and reservations on any of the following trips, please call Loretta @ 413-592-7350, Stacy @ 413-593-1172, or Dianne @ 413-214-3822.

Trips depart from Sot Park, Chicopee and Stop & Shop, West Springfield. Make payments to LORETTA GOYTEE 582 E. Main St. Chicopee, MA 01020

CRUISING GLOUCESTER HARBOR, Sunday, July 26, 2020. Buffet Lunch aboard the Beauport Princess with DJ music and light narration. Visit Rockport and shop in the many galleries. Cost \$114. pp \$25 deposit due with reservation. Final payment due June 19, 2020.

THE EDWARDS TWINS, Thursday, August 13, 2020. The Number One Impersonation act in the world. Their vocals and looks are amazing. Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, Ct. Coffee & Donuts on arrival, Family Style Menu: Salad, Chicken ala Kathryn, Broiled Scrod, vegetable, potato, dessert, beverage. Cost \$103. pp. \$25 deposit due with reservation. Final payment due July 3, 2020

UNCHAINED MELODY: Tuesday, September 22, 2020. starring Jimmy Russo & The Chords, dynamic entertainment at The Grand Oak Villa, Oakville, Ct. Family style meal with Chicken Parmesan, Roast Pork, Pasta with homemade sauce, potato, vegetable, dessert, soda & coffee. Carafes of Red & White Wine on every table. Cost: \$93. pp. \$25 deposit due with reservation. Final payment due August 14, 2020.

A BOB HOPE USO STYLE TRIBUTE: Thursday, November 12, 2020, featuring Bill Johnson and Holly Faris. at The Grand Oak Villa, Oakville, Ct. A tribute to America's Veterans. Family style meal Salad, Pasta, Roast Turkey with Gravy and Sliced Roast Beef with gravy, roasted potato, Vegetable, dessert, soda & coffee. Carafes of Red and white Wine on every table. Cost \$94. pp. \$25 deposit due with reservation. Final payment due October 2, 2020

Church DIRECTORY

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow

413-583-2630

Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Solty

Saturday Vigil Masses – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish);
10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Evening Mass – 5:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

25 Parker St., Indian Orchard

413-543-3627

Pastor Rev. Jeffrey Ballou

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday
Sunday Mass – 8 a.m. (English)
10 a.m. (Polish/English)
5 p.m. (English)

Morning Masses (Monday through Saturday) 8 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)

Vigil Mass on Holy Days of Obligation – 7 p.m.

Holy Day of Obligation Masses – 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

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413-583-2312

Father Vitor Oliveira

Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese);

11 a.m. (English)

Monday and Wednesday Morning

Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)

Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)

First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.

For more information, visit

ourladyoffatimaparish.org

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

485 EAST ST. LUDLOW, MA 01056

413-583-7875

www.faithcommunitychapel.org

email: faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com

Pastor Jon P. Scott

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

Worship Service 11 a.m.

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Fellowship with coffee and donuts

11 a.m. Worship Service

See Faith Community Chapel Facebook for updates.

Wednesday 7 p.m.

Ludlow Christian Fellowship

Bible Study: Hank Bastos, Leader

Call: 413-348-6487 for more information

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413-543-4204

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Thursday at 7 p.m.-Choir Practice, new members welcome!

Third Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m.-Men's Fellowship Breakfast

See our website for more information:

www.orchardcovenant.org

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123 Hubbard St., Ludlow

413-583-5754

Rev. Richard Pagano

Pastor's office hours

by appointment

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesdays – AA 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursdays – AA 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday – Outreach

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

584 West St., Ludlow

413-583-8454

S Sunday services

Sacrament Meeting 10-11 A.M.

Sunday school for adults, Young single adults (18-30) and teens (11-18)- 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon

Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon

Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon

Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11-12 noon

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AAA Travel will bring the world to you by hosting a series of free weekly Virtual Vacations starting this week.

Participants will be able to interact with leading cruise and tour providers, ask questions and gain more knowledge about destinations and travel options for the future.

"Many AAA Travel clients residing in the Pioneer Valley are frustrated to be

home bound. We are all doing what we need to, keeping each other safe by staying home. But we do not have to like it and nothing can stop us from dreaming of our future travels. Many of us hope to return to our freedom to travel soon and are looking for ways to understand what our future travel options will be. We are also looking for ways to stay entertained and informed while we wait. Our hope

is that this series of Travel focused webinars will fill that need."

The Virtual Vacations webinar series schedule includes:

May 6 – Viking River Cruises' Mississippi and More

May 13 – What's New with Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

May 20 – Escorted Tours with Member Choice Vacations

May 27 - Life Onboard Amtrak with Amtrak Vacations

AAA Travel has been there for travelers since 1902, supporting the travel needs of members and non-members. These events are free and open to the public. To sign up for any, or all, of these free online events visit AAA.com/travel.

Star Spangled Springfield postponed due to COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD – After careful consideration, the Spirit of Springfield, with the City of Springfield, has determined it is in the best interest of the community to postpone Star Spangled Springfield due to COVID-19. The event, sponsored by MassMutual, is being delayed from Saturday, July 4, 2020, to a date that has yet to be determined.

"Someone said to me, 'We need fireworks,' said Judy Matt, Spirit of Springfield President. "I agree 100%, but we

must first think of the welfare and well-being of our community. When the time is right, we will be ready."

"It is the prudent and right decision," said Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno. "Once we defeat this COVID-19 Coronavirus, and we will, with the Spirit of Springfield, celebrate once again. Until then and out of an abundance of caution, we must continue to be proactive in starving this virus by following all of the local, state and federal public health

guidelines as we begin to plan to return to a sense of normalcy within phases."

"MassMutual has been a proud sponsor of Springfield's Independence Day Celebration since 2006. We will continue to support the Spirit of Springfield and the event when our community is healthy and it is safe for us to gather," said Dennis Duquette, Head of Community Responsibility, MassMutual, and President, MassMutual Foundation. "Springfield needs a reason to celebrate."

Star Spangled Springfield has been a celebration of the country's independence and a July 4th tradition since 1991. It has featured musical entertainment, family-friendly activities, and a world-class pyrotechnics display by Fireworks by Grucci. It has been sponsored by MassMutual since 2006, with additional support provided by area businesses.

For updates, follow Spirit of Springfield on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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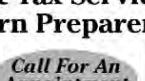


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Dunkin' to Offer All Healthcare Workers a Free Coffee and Donut on May 6

The Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation announces a \$200,000 grant to First Descents to develop the "Hero Recharge" program for healthcare professionals experiencing trauma

Dunkin', its local franchisees, restaurant team members, and the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation have worked together from the very beginning of the global health crisis to find meaningful ways to say "thank you" to Western Massachusetts healthcare professionals on the frontlines of the COVID-19 response. In honor of National Nurses Day next week, Western Mass. restaurants are showing their appreciation and support for these heroes' tireless efforts with a special in-store offer and joining restaurants nationwide with a \$200,000 grant to support healthcare workers experiencing trauma, as well as continuing various initiatives to give back to healthcare workers in our local communities.

Free Coffee and Donut for Healthcare Workers

On National Nurses Day, May 6, Dunkin' is offering a free medium hot or iced coffee and a free donut – no purchase necessary – to all healthcare workers who visit participating Dunkin' restaurants in Western Mass., while supplies last.*

"As a brand with a long heritage of serving those who serve, we appreciate and honor the heroic work and unwavering commitment nurses and healthcare professionals show every day. Their selfless sacrifices inspire all of us to come together to do everything we can to support our communities. We want people on the frontlines to know that we have their backs and they can count on Dunkin' to help keep them running," said Dave Hoffmann, CEO of Dunkin' Brands.

"Hero Recharge" Program

In honor of Pay It Forward Day today, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation

is providing critical support to nurses and healthcare workers experiencing trauma due to COVID-19, announcing a \$200,000 grant to First Descents, the global leader in adventure-based healing. Through this grant, First Descents will create "Hero Recharge," a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to leverage adventure-based wellness programs to help healthcare professionals facing significant traumatic stress by improving their psychosocial health, nurturing supportive peer relationships, and better positioning them to carry out their important work.

"Doctors, nurses, and first responders are on the front lines of the most devastating health crisis of our generation," said Ryan O'Donoghue, Executive Director of First Descents. "In partnership with the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, our goal is to address this trauma through unforgettable outdoor adventures that will nurture supportive peer relationships and

give these heroes the respite and renewal they deserve."

Continued Donations to the Frontlines

Dunkin' has an online gift card site, DunkinCoffeeBreak.com, so that guests in Western Mass. and across the country can send a Dunkin' eGift Card as a small token of appreciation to thank a doctor, nurse, first responder, teacher, grocery clerk, postal worker, neighbor or any hero in their life. For every card purchased at this site, Dunkin' will donate \$1, up to \$100,000, to the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation emergency funds, specifically for non-profits helping families affected by COVID-19.

To learn more about Dunkin', visit www.DunkinDonuts.com or subscribe to the Dunkin' blog to receive notifications at <https://news.dunkindonuts.com/blog>.

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